

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00455 221720Z
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS TORONTO 0455

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EINV, SOPN, CA
SUBJ: TORONTO STAR CALLS AUTOPACT RAW DEAL

1. THE THIRD EDITORIAL IN THE MARCH 21 TORONTO STAR, "AUTO-PACT IS GIVING US A RAW DEAL", CALLS ON INDUSTRY MINISTER JACK HORNER TO "MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE BIG AUTO COMPANIES IN DETROIT THAT HE IS PREPARED TO SCRAP THE AUTOPACT UNLESS CANADA GETS A BETTER SHAKE ON INVESTMENT, JOBS (INCLUDING ENGINEERING AND TOOL AND DIE JOBS) AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT."
2. THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT TWO NEW DEVELOPMENTS EVIDENCED THAT CANADA IS NOT GETTING A FAIR SHARE OF AUTO INDUSTRY JOBS UNDER THE PACT. FIRST, STATISTICS CANADA REPORTS A DEFICIT WITH THE U.S. UNDER THE AUTO PACT OF DOLS 1.1 BILLION, AND 8.5 PER CENT INCREASE, AND, SECOND, CHRYSLER CANADA'S LAY-OFF OF 750 WORKERS IN WINDSOR TRUCK PLANT AT THE END OF JULY TO TRANSFER THOSE JOBS TO ANOTHER PLANT IN DETROIT.
3. THE STAR CONTINUED THAT ALL MINISTER HORNER HAD TO OFFER WAS THE HOPE THAT THE BIG THREE AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS WOULD ANNOUNCE MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN CANADA. THE STAR FELT THAT SUCH HOPE IS QUESTION-

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ABLE IN VIEW OF THE INTENSE COMPETITION AMONG U.S. STATES FOR SUCH INVESTMENTS AND THE "WIDE ARRAY OF TAX AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO LOCATE THERE INSTEAD. AND BECAUSE THE AUTO INDUSTRY IN CANADA IS LARGELY U.S.-OWNED THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THOSE U.S. STATES WILL SUCCEED IN WINNING BACK SOME INVESTMENT PROJECTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HEADED FOR CANADA."

DIGGINS

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